

SEASONABLE

WORDS of ADVICE

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To all such as are concerned in the

LOTTERY:

In which are pointed out the EVILS
that have attended on GAMING,Especially in buying
CHANCES, POLICIES, and INSURING.Recommended to be Read by Persons
of all Ranks, especially to Masters
and Mistresses, and such as have
Servants under them.

ISAIAH IV. 2.*Wherefore do ye spend Money for that which
is not Bread.*

L O N D O N.

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T H E
I N T R O D U C T I O N .

THE evil Consequences which have for many Years attended on Gaming in the Lottery, while Drawing, calls aloud for Reformation : Not a Season passes but we have many Instances of Servants robbing their Masters to purchase Chances, Policies, and insuring Tickets; Tradesmen, who are on the Eve of Bankruptcy, spending the Property of their Creditors; and Journeymen of every Denomination, squandering the Fruits of their Labours, to the great Injury of their Families.

Parliament not long since, took this Grievance in Hand, but did not make Use of such effectual Means as to put a Stop to this pernicious Business; for Gaming of every Degree, has since been carried on with greater Spirit than ever.

iv INTRODUCTION.

It is a Pity but Lottery-Offices were so regulated, as only to sell Tickets, Halves, or Quarters of Tickets, and not permitted to vend Chances, Policies, or take Money for Insurance, under Pain of paying a heavy Penalty.

However, it is hoped that what is contained in this little Tract, will in some Measure open the Eyes of those who are led away with the plausible Delusions that are set forth, to draw in the Ignorant and Unwary, by the Effects that such Proceedings have too often produced.

That the following Admontions may be useful in the Prevention of Gaming in the Ways here spoken of is the sincere Prayer of

Th^e AUTHOR.



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To all such as are concerned in the

LOTTERY.

THE great Decay of Piety in this corrupt and degenerate Age, has given Rise to many Evils that are hurtful to Families, Individuals, and the Public in general. Among the many, I know not a greater than that of Gaming, especially that Sort which is practised in

our Annual Lotteries, and which is now become so common amongst all Ranks of People from the Merchant to the Beggar, that it calls aloud to the Guardians of the Laws, to put an End to such base and unlawful Commerce.

I mean to point out in this little Piece, the Evils which attend on such Methods of Gaming.

The Meaning, End, and Use of Lotteries, is intended for the good of the State; to raise such Sums of Money as our Exigencies shall require, without levying more Taxes; or to ease the Burden of the Subject; and to be distributed in Tickets to such whose easy Circumstances will admit them to buy without injuring themselves, their Families, or their Creditors—And to those well disposed Persons whose Fortunes enable them to purchase, merely to assist Government, without the Desire, or even Hope, of any Gain whatsoever.

But

But alas! like many Institutions of a like Nature, whose original Intention was for the Benefit of Mankind, its End is subverted and abused.

The generality of those who keep Lottery-Offices, being Men too often possessed of neither Property nor Probity, the Business of keeping such an Office, is now detested by almost every honest Man, and only worthy the Notice of such as make no Scruple of preying on the Substance of the Poor, and those as have perhaps spent a good Fortune in rioting in Luxury and Dissipation; who, having a few Pounds remaining, flatter themselves with the airy Phantom, and risk the last Pound in the precarious Wheel, with the deluded Hope of regaining their spent Fortune; and thus deprive themselves of the common Necessaries of Life, and the Means of obtaining Bread, then say with the unjust Steward, " To Dig I cannot, to

" to Beg I am ashamed"—and are hurried on by the Devil, and the Evil of their own Hearts, to commit such Crimes, to the Injury of their Fellow-Creatures, as brings them to an ignominious Death: Or on the other Hand, not being able to endure Want, nor bear the Reproaches of Poverty, they put a Period to their miserable Existence by Self-Murder!

Numbers of Tradesmen in this great City, have, nay, are at this Moment, hazarding their ALL in the Lottery: Imprudence, or perhaps Misfortunes, have brought them to so low an Ebb, as to be on the Eve of Bankruptcy, while they embrace the same desperate Means, determined either totally to ruin or establish their Credit.

Many are now groaning under the Burden of such Acts of Injustice and bad Policy. Had they but trusted to
divine

divine Providence and the Clemency of their Creditors, their Affairs might have been conciliated and made up. But now, their Intentions of Defraud is too obvious to be concealed, and that Lenity which would have thrown a Veil over unseen and unavoidable Misfortunes, only adds fresh Aggravation to their Crime, and they are held up to the World, as Characters unworthy the Pity of the Benevolent or Humane.

Let us now take a View of the Merchant's or Tradesman's Clerk, whose Trust reposed in him is extensive, who perhaps may be purchasing Chances, or practising other Methods of Gaming now made Use of in Lottery Offices, with his Master's Property, and losing his Substance to a large amount, before he is detected.

Such may buoy themselves up, after throwing away Twenty or Forty Pounds,
that

that if they continue to Insure, they will regain their Losses, till perhaps they lose some Hundreds. Fearful of their Proceedings being made known, abscond from their Master's Service : Such a sudden Departure without assigning any Reason for it, causes Suspicions to arise ; and the Master on looking over his Accounts, perceives the Robbery.—For the Sake of Justice, rather than for the Injury he has sustained, he advertises the Defraud, apprehends the Culprit, arraigns him at the Barr, casts and condemns him.

Thus a Youth, perhaps not Twenty, who, had he used the proper Means to obtain Riches, might in Time, have made a Figure in the World, to the Honour of himself, and the Comfort of his aged Parents, who perhaps congratulated themselves on having so promising a Son, and likely to make so good a Man, must now be made Miserable,

as

as their Day of Joy is overcast, their Root of Happiness cut off, not in the Bloom, but in the Bud of Life; ere the Dawn of Manhood overspreads his Face, his Actions consign him to the Grave!

Let us in the next Place, consider the Case of the domestic Servant and the Apprentice—Many Instances already have been seen in both these Characters: The Woman, excited with the same Views as others, of Gain, by Insuring, &c. first throws away all the Money she has saved by Servitude, next pawns her Cloaths, and so goes on, till she makes away with her Master's or Mistresses Property.

The Apprentice, in all Likelihood younger than the Maid, seeing the bad Example set before him, coincides with her, and steals from the Shop or Money-drawer, till at last, they are both
found

found out, and punished—if not Penally, they lose their Characters and are turned away: She, not daring to ask for the usual Recommendation to another Place; and the Lad, perhaps without either Father or Mother, being taken out of the Foundling-Hospital, Work-House, or Charity-School, are both rendered incapable of the Means of earning their Bread in an honest Manner: One throws herself upon the Town, is ruined and deserted, and wanders about friendless and forlorn; and to drown her Reflections, and stupify her Senses, she drinks Drums; which, with the Diseases she accumulates by frequent Prostitution, soon puts an end to her miserable Life.—The other, to that of picking Pockets, who for a Time, may escape the Justice which is due to his Crimes, till he becomes Older, and consequently more hardened, and at Length goes to robbing on the High-way, and of Course shares the same Fate as others have done before him.

Nor

Nor is the Journeyman Mechanic free from the Deceit of this alluring Evil; so fair are the Pretences to Gain, that he shall be so led away with it, as on Saturday Evening, after receiving the Hire of his Week's Labour, instead of carrying the Money Home to his Family, as to squander it away at the Lottery-Office in the Ways before mentioned. Having no Money by him, recourse is had to the Shop of the voracious Pawn-Broker to purchase Food for the Sunday's Dinner.

These being the dreadful Effects produced by Lottery-Offices, does it not require a speedy Reformation, and an entire Stop put to so great a Grievance? If it be suffered to continue any longer, our Prisons will be filled with Debtors, and our Streets lined with the Wives and Children of those who are confined for even less Sums than they have squandered away at the Lottery-Offices.

O!

O! what have they to answer for, before the great and holy God, who make a Trade of cheating and impoverishing Men, Women, and Children, by this pernicious Art of Gambling; who at once pretend to entertain, and destroy their Brethren; like Joab to Amasa, with one Hand Embrace, and with the other they Stab!

How many Tradesmen have fallen a Prey to this rooking generation of Lottery-Office Keepers? How many Apprentices have been ruined by robbing their Masters, to feed those cruel and insatiable Horse-leeches? Enough to make every discreet Person, resolve never to lay out one Penny with such merciless Thieves and Robbers; nor ever to expend the comfortable Subsistence they may have obtained by Industry, or the Patrimony of their Fathers, in so contemptible a Manner, which beggars a Man without the least Gratification of any reasonable Appetite.

And

And yet notwithstanding all the Sin and Misery that has been brought upon Men by these Means, some People may reply, that there are others, who have been benefited by gaming in the Lottery, and may prove one Instance in a thousand of an Estate gotten by it; yet this volatile sort of Gain, will sooner or later appear to be an unblest Portion, and is but seldom transmitted to the third Generation.

Thus have I given you a short View of the dreadful Consequences attending on the illicit Methods of obtaining such ungodly Gain, which not only tends to the Hurt of your temporal Estate, but also of your eternal Welfare. Therefore, take Care, run no Hazards; but be content with what God pleases to give you, whether it be little or much.

The Tradesman who ruins himself,
generally injures or ruins those who
are

are connected with him—The Youth of both Sexes, of every Age and Condition, should reflect before they enter upon such Schemes, what is likely to be the Result of them; that many are mourning over the Loss of disconsolate Parents whose grey Hairs were brought down with Sorrow to the Grave, by their Children's Acts of imprudence and Dishonesty. Some wallowing in the Sins of Uncleanness; and Others wandering about like Cain of Old, having the Mark of God's Anger set upon them, in far Countries, and who are fearful of returning Home, least the Laws of the Land should sentence them to an untimely End.

Finally, let those that have Sinned, sin no more, repent of their Doings, and remember "that Righteousness
" tendeth to Life, while he that pursueth
" Evil, pursueth it to his own Death."

F I N I S.

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